

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON DIVISION

ENTERED

AUG 23 2002

SAMUEL L. KAY, CLERK
U. S. District & Bankruptcy Courts
Southern District of West Virginia

IN RE: SERZONE
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL NO. 1477

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

ORDER

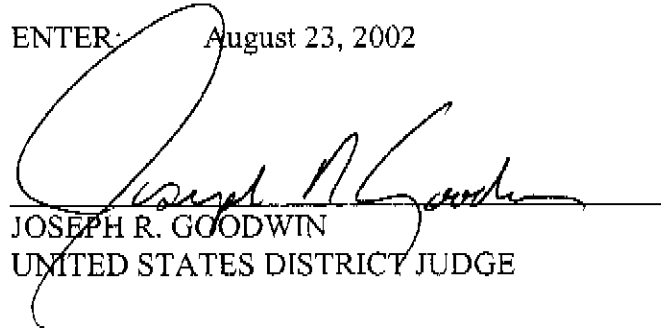
In the absence of an order excusing counsel for exceptional reasons, the attorney with primary responsibility for a party's representation shall attend all pretrial conferences.

By Order of August 16, 2002, this court required lead counsel for each party to appear at the initial pretrial conference. On August 19, 2002, this court received a letter from Mr. Daniel Becnel, Jr., indicating that he does not intend to appear at that conference. The court construes that letter as a motion to excuse counsel for exceptional circumstances, and upon consideration thereof, namely the conflicting depositions scheduled in Brussels, Belgium, the court **GRANTS** the relief.

The court further **ORDERS** that counsel appearing for Cheramie, Andrea B., *et al.*, on September 23, 2002, have full authority to make decisions regarding pretrial and discovery proceedings.

The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to send a copy of this Order to the Clerk of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, One Columbus Circle, NE, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, Rm. G-255, North Lobby, Washington, D.C. 20002, counsel of record, and any unrepresented party.

ENTER: August 23, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Goodwin", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE